

## Local teen wins in Indy advances to World Championship

Submitted by Jessica Cole

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Katherine Cole, 13, Westfield, raced in the 71st Indianapolis All-American Soap Box Derby Race in the Masters Division on June 21 at the Wilbur Shaw Memorial Soap Box Derby Hill in Indianapolis. Katherine won first place, which allows her to advance to the World Championships in Akron, Ohio on July 26, where she will compete with other teens from around the world.

The All-American Soap Box Derby race is the premier youth and family oriented racing program in the United States. Headquartered in Akron, Ohio, All-American Soap Box Derby is one of the most established grassroots youth and family organizations in the US. The AASBD actively promotes the core values of teamwork, the spirit of competition, perseverance and an emphasis on family.

More than 450 youths are expected to compete in their gravity-powered racers for a chance to be the World Champion of the 71st All-American Soap Box Derby Championship presented by Levi Strauss Signature® brand at Derby Downs in Akron, OH. The top three place winners earn college scholarships. A Youth Initiative of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc. (NASCAR), the All-American Soap Box Derby was established in 1933 and is an American tradition.

The Indianapolis race is one of 450 races held across the U.S. and overseas where participants compete in one of three divisions: Stock, Super Stock, and Masters. In competition, a Derby car can reach speeds upwards of 30 miles per hour depending on the angle of the ramp or hill. To learn more about how your child can begin racing in this well-established, time-honored family event, visit [www.aasbd.com](http://www.aasbd.com).



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## Katherine Cole

Katherine is a student at Westfield Middle School and will be in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade this fall where she is in the ALPS program (accelerated classes). Katherine is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and consistently makes it onto the Honor Roll. This past year, she was the captain of the volleyball team and was 1<sup>st</sup> chair bassoonist in the band. Just recently she was honored at a Butler University volleyball camp for her dedication, hard work, and attitude during the week.

Katherine is also a competitive figure skater, placing in the top 10 at the Eastern Great Lakes Regional competition last fall. She also volunteers at her church in the preschool department.

Kat is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Soap Box Derby racer. Her grandfather raced in the 50's, uncles in the 70's and her father raced in the 80's. She has raced in Soap Box Derby three years prior to this one, placing as high as 2<sup>nd</sup> place at local rallies, in the Stock Division. This was her first year racing in the Masters Division, which allowed her to also receive the Rookie of the Year award.

At this time, Katherine wants to attend Purdue University and then go on to medical school where she would like to become a cardiologist or neurologist.